

# Through The Lens

*A guide to digital photography for computer enthusiasts.  
After the click of your camera, you're only half done!*

## Getting ready for winter photography!

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While winter photography might take a bit more prep time in terms of what to wear, it is well worth the effort to take advantage of a completely different environment from summer. I thoroughly enjoy taking photos during (if safe) and after a snow/ice storm as well as rivers just as they are freezing or breaking apart.

There are definitely some advantages to shooting in the winter, especially in the Ottawa area. We get lots of crisp sunny days with pristine snow and not much slush. The sun is low throughout the day so you don't have to avoid noon hour photography. If you do want to catch the sunrise, it is later than in the summer months (no mosquitos!) and the sunset might well be before dinner!

You may want to consider some additional items for your kit to make winter photography easier. For instance, I use gloves that have fabric only halfway up my fingers for easy button pushing, but they also have a Velcro flap to go over all the fingers to keep them warm when I don't need the dexterity.

If you are standing around waiting for the sunrise or long exposures, feet can get cold so I recommend heavy socks with a high wool content. I save them for photography as wool does not wear as well as synthetic fibres and at around \$20-\$30 a pair, I don't want to be buying them often. Any winter photographer would welcome these as a Christmas gift!

In terms of camera gear, I recommend a lens hood to prevent flares and to keep falling snowflakes off your lens. You may wish to get special feet for your tripod for better grip on ice and snow. As well, a polarizing filter can really help with the intense glare/reflection of sun on white snow.

For shooting a scene that is mostly snow, your camera will assume it is an overly bright object and may try to underexpose it. If your camera has a *Snow scene* mode, by all means use that setting (just don't forget to take it off after). My preference is to make sure the camera is not on *Auto* and then choose P, A, Tv/S, or M. In any of these shooting modes, I can slightly over expose my image with the EV adjust. It usually is a button with two triangles on the back of the camera. Set the scale to +1 over the baseline of zero.



If you are shooting a scene that has a lot of trees or other objects along with the snow, then your camera may meter on those and you will find your snow over-exposed. In this instance set your

EV adjust to -1. If it appears a bit too dark when viewing on your computer, you can lighten with photo editing software (<https://opcug.ca/Photography/UsingMasksInPhotoEditingSoftware.pdf>).

When you are done for the day, you may have to modify your summertime routine in order to protect your camera. Let your camera come to room temperature in the camera bag before unloading images, recharging the battery, cleaning the lens, etc. This will prevent condensation from forming and entering the interior of your camera.

